

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 AID-05 JUSE-00 HA-05
/062 W

-----069476 212235Z /75

O R 212127Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 237
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CI
SUBJ: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION CASE: POTPOURRI

1. AMBASSADOR'S CONSULTATION: THE MEDIA HERE HAVE GIVEN LOW-KEY TREATMENT TO AMBASSADOR LANDAU'S CURRENT TRIP TO WASHINGTON. CHANNEL 13 TV HAS A CAMERA AT THE AIRPORT WHEN HE DEPARTED AUGUST 17 AND RAN THE FOOTAGE AT THE END OF THE EVENING NEWS PROGRAM. THE MORNING NEWSPAPERS WHICH HAD BEEN UNAWARE CALLED EMBASSY PRESS ATTACHE THAT NIGHT AND GOT STATEMENT THAT CONSULTATION WAS ROUTINE AND WOULD INCLUDE LETELIER CASE AS WELL AS OTHER MATTERS. ALL PAPERS AUGUST 18 CARRIED SMALL BOXES ANNOUNCING AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE AND EXPECTED RETURN THIS WEEK, SOME NOTING THAT THE TRIP TO WASHINGTON HAD COME AS A SURPRISE. THE PRESS AUGUST 19 REPORTED STATEMENT BY STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN CONFIRMING THE AMBASSADOR'S TRIP.

2. LAW SUITS AGAINST MANUEL CONTRERAS: THE SUIT BROUGHT BY 10 LAWYERS ON BEHALF OF THE RELATIVES OF 69 MISSING PERSONS (SEE SANTIAGO 6018) HAS BEEN REFERRED BY THE CIVILIAN COURTS TO THE MILITARY JUDICIAL SYSTEM. JUDGE
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CARLA FIGUEROA DECLARED HERSELF "INCOMPETENT" ON BEING INFORMED BY THE DEFENSE MINISTRY THAT MANUEL CONTRERAS HAD BEEN A MILITARY OFFICER AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED CRIMES. GENERAL ENRIQUE MOREL, THE JUDGE AT THE SECOND MILITARY COURT OF SANTIAGO, HAS ACCEPTED THE CASE. IN A SEPARATE ACTION, AUGUST 18, THE LAWYER FOR RELATIVES OF CARLOS LORCA, EX-SOCIALIST DEPUTY, BROUGHT SUIT AGAINST

CONTRERAS IN THE 4TH CRIMINAL COURT OF SANTIAGO FOR RESPONSIBILITY IN THE DISSAPPEARANCE OF LORCA. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE JUDGE OF THE COURT HAS ORDERED THAT A DECLARATION BE OBTAINED FROM CONTRERAS.

3. MARIANA CALLEJAS' LAST INTERVIEW (IN CHILE): "LA TERCERA" OF AUGUST 20 CARRIES A LONG INTERVIEW WITH THE WIFE OF MICHAEL TOWNLEY, MARIANA CALLEJAS (COPY BEING POUCHED TO ARA/AND/CH). MARIANA GAVE THE INTERVIEW BEFORE HER DEPARTURE FOR THE UNITED STATES ON AUGUST 16. "LA TERCERA" PREFACES THE INTERVIEW WITH A STATEMENT THAT, BECAUSE SHE WAS LEAVING, MARIANA WAS A LITTLE MORE POINTED IN SOME OF HER COMMENTS THAN PREVIOUSLY, BUT ADDED THAT "ONE MORE TIME SHE LIED A LOT." WHAT SHE SAID IS REPOR- DUCED HERE, SAYS "LA TERCERA," EXCEPT "WHEN SHE INFRINGED ON EXISTING LAWS BXLVAKING ACCUSATIONS DIFFICULT TO PROVE OR SUSTAIN." THE INTERVIEW DOES NOT BREAK ANY OBVIOUSLY NEW GROUND. ASKED ABOUT HER ROLE AFTER THE BOMB HAD BEEN PLACED UNDEER THE LETELIER CAR, (TOWNLEY ALLEGEDLY CALLED HER AND REQUESTED HER TO INFORM DINA), THE INTERVIEWER ASKED MARIANA IF THIS DID NOT BOTHER HER CONSCIENCE. MARIANA'S REPLY: "NO, WITH ALL SINCERITY NO, BECAUSE I CONTINUE TO THINK THAT WHOEVER PLANNED THIS, WHETHER IT WAS GENERAL CONTRERAS OR SOMEONE ELSE, -- I BELIEVE THAT WE ARE GOING TO KNOW SOME DAY -- PLANNED IT FOR THE GOOD OF CHILE." CONFRONTED WITH THE ACCUSATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT SHE HAS IN THE PAST LIED REGARDING MATTERS RELATED TO THE LETELIER CASE, MARIANA REPLIED "THAT THIS WAS TRUE BUT FROM THE MOMENT TOWNLEY WAS EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY YOU CAN BELIEVE EVERYTHING I HAVE SAID." THE INTERVIEWER THEN SUGGESTED THAT MARIANA SHOULD BE VERY HAPPY WITH THE WAY THINGS HAVE TURNED OUT -- THAT SHE AND HER HUSBAND HAVE WORKED OUT A GOOD ARRANGEMENT WITH THE NORTH AMERICAN AUTHORITIES. MARIANA DENIED THAT SHE WAS HAPPY WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION. SHE SAID SHE WAS GREATLY DISTURBED BY THE FACT THAT WHILE HER HUSBAND HAS SPOKEN HONESTLY ABOUT THE FACTS OF THE MATTER, THE INTELLECTUAL AUTHORS ARE WASHING THEIR HANDS AND SAYING ANY NUMBER OF THINGS AGAINST HIM -- THAT HE IS A MEMBER OF THE CIA, THAT HE IS A MIRISTA, ETC. GROVER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANTIA06275
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780341-1117
Format: TEL
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780842/aaaabioq.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4ace5160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1676260
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION CASE: POTPOURRI
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CI, US, (LETELIER, ORLANDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4ace5160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014